

09/600936  
534 Rec'd PCT/PTC 24 JUL 2000

Docket No. 49917 (868)

5/A

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Mitsuaki NAKAMURA and Keisuke IWASAKI  
SERIAL NO.: Not Yet Assigned  
[Express Mail Label No. EL298355200US]  
FILED: Herewith  
FOR: IMAGE PROCESSING DEVICE AND METHOD

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly add the following new claims.

--11. (new) The image processing device of claim 1,  
wherein the contrast estimate means estimates contrast (Lv, Hv) as contrast of  
the input image, which is defined by a combination of luminance Lv corresponding to  
a color of lines and dots generated in the input image and luminance Hv  
corresponding to a color of a background of the input image, and  
the luminance correction means raises the contrast (Lv, Hv) of the input image  
to a maximum of contrast (Vmin, Vmax) which is defined by a combination of lower  
limit of luminance Vmin and upper limit of luminance Vmax of possible luminances,  
so that a lower luminance and higher luminance of luminances Lv, Hv which define  
the contrast of the input image are converted to the lower limit of luminance Vmin and  
upper limit of luminance Vmax.

09600936-100300

Sub  
B  
A